

# The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 16, No. 10

October 2021

Complimentary copy

## Council, mayor terms blocked from ballot

By Taylor Messick

In August, the Bel Aire City Council voted in favor of placing three questions regarding governing body term lengths and limits on the November election ballot. However, the city was recently informed that its questions won't make the cut.

Mayor Jim Benage originally

suggested putting the questions on the ballot at a council workshop. He wanted voters to be able to decide whether the mayor should serve a two-year term or a four-year term. Under the city's current procedure, the mayor serves a two-year term.

The other two questions were related to term limits. Candidates can currently serve as many consecutive terms

as the voters elect them to. Benage also wanted to ask voters whether the mayor and city council members should be able to serve more than two consecutive terms. He proposed a four-year break after two consecutive terms before being able to run again.

City attorney Jacqueline Kelly said the city received notification from the county

that "those aren't the right type of questions" to be placed on the ballot because they are not binding. Instead, the city will look at hosting a town hall to let residents express opinions on governing body terms.

"I've been in contact with the county and they are pretty much firm on the fact that the publication process has started and they are not able to add anything

to the ballot," said Kelly. "We are teaming up on requesting the secretary of state to ask the attorney general to provide an updated opinion. However, the attorney general's opinions are not being cranked out very often this year. There is a lot going on. ... Even if the secretary of state requests an opinion, that opinion may not come out until sometime in 2022."

## Repairs planned for 53rd Street

By Taylor Messick

On Sept. 21, the Bel Aire City Council took action on three items regarding 53rd Street North. The road has been a constant problem ever since it was built a decade ago.

"It was a gravel road that was put in 10 years ago," City Manager Ty Lasher said in July. "Basically all (the county) did was just level it out and put asphalt millings down; then they graded that out. It was really just there to get a hard surface for cars. It wasn't intended for buses because, at that point, Isely and Northeast Magnet weren't there yet. ... The wear and tear of cars was already going to deteriorate it but when you add all this construction — it is just making it go a lot faster."

The city council expressed support for closing 53rd North between Oliver and Woodlawn in July because of how dangerous the road became. However, the road was never officially closed. Lasher said signs were put up to encourage motorists to drive carefully. The speed limit was also reduced to 30 mph.

On Sept. 21, the council officially voted to close 53rd North between Oliver and Woodlawn to through traffic. The council also approved a contract with Garver for \$94,500 to redesign 53rd Street; only one bid was received. Bids for construction will be taken 110 days from approval (Jan. 9, 2022) and construction of the road is expected to take between three and four months. City engineer Anne Stephens said the city will need to obtain two rights-of-way for the project.

Council members were worried about closing one of the city's major gateways for several months, especially during the school year. Council member Justin Smith proposed leaving the road open one-way and telling motorists to drive down the middle since most of the potholes are on the outside of the road.

Council members seemed to come to a consensus that policing one-way traffic would be a headache and could also potentially be even less safe. One resident who lives along the stretch of road said he would prefer for the city to close it to through traffic instead of allowing

See STREET, Page 2

## Gone fishing



### Police host first fishing derby

Bel Aire Police Chief Darrell Atteberry and officers from the police department hosted a fishing derby Sept. 18 at the Central Park fishing ponds. The event was sponsored by Fishing's Future and Cabela's/Bass Pro Shop. The department hopes to make the derby an annual event.

Courtesy photos

## Voters to decide local elections

By The Breeze staff

Voters will cast ballots in school board and city council elections Nov. 2. The last day to register to

vote is Oct. 12. Early voting will begin Oct. 18.

In Bel Aire, the election will decide three at-large city council seats. Voters can select up to three

candidates.

The ballot also will include a two-way race for mayor.

Six people are running for city council. They are

incumbents John Welch and Justin Smith as well as newcomers Ashley Markley, Patty Beamer, Matthieu Bryant and Greg Davied. Jeff Elshoff did not file for


re-election. Beamer and incumbent Jim Benage have filed for mayor.

Voters also will select USD 259 and USD 375 school board members.

### Q&A

Candidates for mayor and city council answer questions ahead of the election.

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# Future of Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce in jeopardy

By Taylor Messick

The future of the Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce is uncertain.

The chamber is looking to build after being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Its membership is dwindling.

The Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce was founded in 2008. President Gary O'Neal has been a member since 2011.

"We've had 93 people who belonged to the chamber at one time or another," O'Neal told the city council this summer. "Currently, we have a paid membership of

about 25. Attendance at our meetings has been about six or eight people, including when we have a speaker."

In 2019, the city council approved funding to hire a part-time director who could work 15 hours per week. Since then, the group has gone through three candidates. Two of them stepped down to seek other opportunities almost immediately. O'Neal said he has a current candidate who is qualified and he believes she will do a great job if she is willing to stick around.

The chamber has sent out questionnaires to all 93 former and current mem-

bers in an attempt to try and grow the organization again. O'Neal said they've only gotten back about seven responses so far.

"It's very frustrating trying to grow a chamber of commerce in a bedroom community which has almost no businesses locally," said O'Neal. "Most of the businesses who do business in Bel Aire do business with the City of Bel Aire. We have contacted all of the people who visit the city to try and get them to join the chamber and attend our functions."

O'Neal said the chamber currently has enough fund-

ing to run through the first quarter of 2022. He said those funds could cover the salary and expenses of a part-time director. Beyond that, things are looking uncertain.

"I was very honest when I met with this person about the director position," said O'Neal. "If we are unable to grow this chamber by the end of the first quarter — unless we can grow and get some activities going to fund the chamber — there is a good possibility Bel Aire might not have a chamber of commerce anymore. Like any orga-

nization, it takes money to run."

## Bel Aire OKs road patchwork repairs around city

By Taylor Messick

On Sept. 7, the Bel Aire City Council unanimously approved a bid for repairs to streets and curbs. Patchwork repairs will be made in about 30 different areas in the city.

The council reached out to three contractors and got two bids to choose from. They went with the low bid of \$55,020 from PPJ. City engineer Anne Stephens said there is still money left for additional repairs this year.

Stephens said the majority of these repairs will take place on residential streets with the exception of one area near 47th North and Oliver. Additional potential patchwork for this year will be discussed at future workshops.

"The list was formulated from complaints we've gotten from people calling in or (commenting) on the website," said Stephens. "They are also formulated as various staff members drive around and see things. ... Some of these have been on the list since last year and we are just kind of getting to them now. We try to do at least one large set of patch repairs each year. This encompasses concrete work, asphalt work and curb work. Those are items that our staff doesn't do."

In other business, the council:

•Held public hearings regarding the revenue neutral rate, city budget and industrial revenue bonds for Webb Industrial.

•Unanimously approved a resolution stating the expectation to exceed the revenue neutral rate.

•Unanimously approved the 2022 city budget.

•Approved a resolution deter-

mining the advisability of issuing taxable industrial revenue bonds with a 4-0-1 vote.

•Unanimously approved a bid of \$518,440.25 from Prado for paving improvements in Chapel Landing 3rd, Phases 1 and 2.

•Unanimously appointed Ty Lasher, Jacqueline Kelly and Tristin Terhune as delegates for the Kansas League of Municipalities.

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# City of Bel Aire



*In the interest of public safety, please be advised that any or all Bel Aire senior and/or rec programs may be subject to modification, change, or cancellation to reflect current state and local COVID-19 orders, with or without notice.*

## Bel Aire Seniors

All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and library area are open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of books to check out with neither cost nor time restraints and computers are available for study or research. Any senior can belong to or attend more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.

### Locations

Senior Center / 7651 E. Central Park Ave. / 744-2451  
Recreation Center / 5251 E. 48th North / 744-2700

### Weekly Events

- Pickleball** — Monday & Friday 9 a.m.-11 a.m. & Fridays 5-7 p.m., Rec Center \$2 per person or Rec membership  
**Bel Aire Walkers** — Monday through Friday, 8-9 a.m., Rec Center (Indoors)  
**Yoga** — Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Rec Center  
1X R-\$20 NR-\$35 & 2X R-\$30 NR-\$45  
R= Resident NR= Non-Resident  
Yoga mats are to be provided by the participant  
**Bridge** — Tuesdays 1 p.m. — Senior Center **RSVP Required**  
**Senior Aerobics** — Wednesdays 9 a.m. — Rec Center  
**Open Sewing** — Wednesdays, 10 a.m. — Rec Center  
**Sew 'N' So More** — Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 12 p.m. - Rec Center  
**Line Dance** — Mondays & Fridays, 1 p.m. — Bel Aire City Hall Community Room  
**Zoom Line Dance** — Fridays, 1 p.m. - Contact Sarah at 316-744-2700 or schristenson@belaireks.gov for more information.  
**Folk Dance** — Thursdays, 2 p.m. Bel Aire Rec Center \$2 per class

## Monthly & Special Events

- Oct. 4,** 6:30 p.m. Dinner & BINGO, Community Room **RSVP**  
To RSVP contact Sarah at 316-744-2700 ext. 304 or schristenson@belaireks.gov  
**Oct. 5,** 1:30-2:30 p.m. Flu Shot Clinic, Community Room  
**Oct. 6,** 10 a.m. Library Work Day, Senior Center  
**Oct. 7,** 1 p.m. Armchair Travel: Germany, Senior Center 1pm  
**Oct. 8,** 2:30 p.m. Family Feud Game, Senior Center  
**Oct. 11,** 2:30 p.m. Wii Bowling, Senior Center  
**Oct. 13,** 1:30 p.m. Pumpkin Painting, Rec Center **RSVP**  
**Oct. 14,** 10:30 a.m. Mexican Train Dominos, Senior Center  
**Oct. 15,** 2:15 p.m. Snack & Chat, Senior Center  
**Oct. 16,** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Fall Festival, Rec Center  
**Oct. 19,** (Morning) Medicare Open Enrollment Assistance, Senior Center **RSVP Required**  
To RSVP contact Sarah at 316-744-2700 ext. 304 or schristenson@belaireks.gov  
**Oct. 20,** 1:30 p.m. Book Club Meeting, Senior Center  
**Oct. 22,** 6 p.m. Movie Night, Senior Center **RSVP**  
**Oct. 26,** 1:30 p.m. Spooktacular Halloween Party, Rec Center **RSVP**  
**Oct. 27,** (Afternoon) Medicare Open Enrollment Assistance, Rec Center **RSVP Required**  
To RSVP contact Sarah at 316-744-2700 ext. 304 or schristenson@belaireks.gov  
**Oct. 28,** 1 p.m. National Chocolate Day Activity, Rec Center

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TREES: WHAT YOU  
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The last curbside clean-up this year is Saturday, October 23.

Your disposables should be curbside before 7 am. The clean-up is for household trash and household items only. The cleanup is NOT intended for construction demolition debris.

If the following items can be handled safely by two people, they will be removed: furniture, bed mattresses, appliances (if contained refrigerant, must be tagged to contain none), electronics, empty and dried paint cans, lawn and garden items with no oil and gas, bundled tree limbs in 3-foot lengths, loose trash in boxes or bags. You may also use your blue trash carts to contain these disposables for pick up at curbside.

Disposables that are NOT acceptable for curbside pick up include: batteries, oil filters, fluorescent light bulbs, propane tanks, hazardous chemicals, explosives, flammable liquids, asbestos items, and any appliances with refrigerant.

\*\*\*Brought to you by the Utility Advisory Committee\*\*\*

## Bel Aire Recreation

Masks are strongly encouraged indoors & outdoors when unable to social distance at least 6 feet.

*\*Register online at [www.belaireks.org/220/Recreation](http://www.belaireks.org/220/Recreation)*

### Youth Basketball

For children in grades K – 5th. Now taking registrations!! (Games and practices Dec-Feb TBA)

### Tippi Toes Dance Classes

School year session has started but it's not too late to sign up! Toddler & Me- 18 months-3.5 years, Ballet & Jazz- 4-7 year olds & Hip Hop/Jazz- 7-12 year olds!

### Little Dribblerz

This is a coed instructional basketball program for PK and K youth. Basic fundamentals & strategies of basketball will be introduced. (Starting Nov-Dec TBA)

### Fall Craft and Go

Looking for something to do with your kids to celebrate the Fall Season!? Sign up for our Craft and Go series. Come and pick up your kit filled with 2 crafts and instructions. \$8 per Kit. Registration deadline Oct. 25.

### Taekwondo (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

### Athletic Development Series (For athletes grades 6th-12th)

- 1. Dynamic Warm-Up Clinic** (Saturday, Oct. 23 @ 2 p.m.)  
Dynamic stretching activates muscles you will use during your game or workout and improves range of motion and body awareness, helping you increase overall athletic performance.

### 2. Speed and Agility

 (Saturday,

Nov. 6 @ 2 p.m.)

Developing skills to accelerate, decelerate, and change directions efficiently is a game changer!

### 3. Improving Vertical Leap

 (Saturday, Nov. 20 @ 2 p.m.)

Strategies for improving vertical leap and learning proper landing mechanics to reduce injury risk.

**Each clinic is \$15. Or enroll in all 3 clinics for \$30 (a \$15 savings). Each clinic is 1.5 hours and parents are invited to observe from the bleachers. Clinic is interactive, please wear proper athletic attire and bring water!**

Contact Chris ([cqintegratedwellness@icloud.com](mailto:cqintegratedwellness@icloud.com) or 620-640-2104) to register.

### Adult Pickleball

Held Mondays, Wednesday & Fridays from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. & Fridays 5-7 p.m. in the Rec Center Gymnasium! Just \$2 drop in fee or membership!

### Yoga

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Teens and adults can join at any time!

### Fitness Center

Come check out our fitness center! The Fitness Center consists of: Elliptical cross trainers, Free weights, Multi-station weight machine, recumbent bike and treadmills.

### FREE Senior Programs

Line dancing, senior aerobics, folk dancing, Bel Aire Walkers, Sewing, Education & more! Please call Sarah for more information!

For more info on programs, call 744-2700 or [www.belaireks.gov](http://www.belaireks.gov). Follow us on Facebook @BelAireRec!

**2021 General Election – Important Dates**

**Oct. 12** – Last day to register or re-register to change address/ name / party affiliation.  
**Oct. 18** – Early In-Person Voting begins at Sedgwick County Election Office, open Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm (Closes at Noon on November 1).  
**Oct. 26** – Applications for Advance Voting Ballots (mail ballots) due at Sedgwick County Election Office

★ ★ ★

**Oct. 28 to Oct. 30-** Early In-Person Voting at Bel Aire City Hall and all Sedgwick County Early Vote Centers

- Oct 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> – 10 AM to 7 PM
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – 9 AM to 4:00 PM

**November 2 – Election Day**, polls open 6 AM to 7 PM  
\*see your registration for assigned voting place. Advance Voting Ballots (mail ballots) must be returned.

**Voting Questions?**  
Go to [www.sedgwickcounty.org/vote](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/vote) or call the Sedgwick County Election Office at (toll free) 877-530-7194, or 316-660-7100.

## Community Events

- Oct. 5** – City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall  
**Oct. 6** – Bel Aire Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Noon (RSVP to [belaire.chamber@gmail.com](mailto:belaire.chamber@gmail.com))  
**Oct. 12** – City Council Workshop, 6:30 p.m., City Hall  
**Oct. 13** – UAC Meeting, 3 p.m., City Hall  
**Oct. 13** – Bel Aire Lions Club Meeting, 11:30 a.m.  
**Oct. 14** – Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall  
**Oct. 16** – Fall Festival  
**Oct. 19** – City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall  
**Oct. 23** – Fall Curbside Clean-Up  
**Oct. 27** – Bel Aire Lions Club Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

More information can be found at [www.belaireks.gov](http://www.belaireks.gov).

**Keep it clear!**  
The required vertical clearance for street trees is 8 feet over sidewalks for pedestrian clearance and 12 feet over roadways for vehicle clearance. Also, trees and shrubbery which are greater than 18 inches in height are prohibited within 10 feet of street lighting poles or within five feet of fire hydrants.

**STREET TREES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

We

want

to hear

from you!

The Bel Aire City Council wants your input on mayor and city council terms:

- Should the mayor's term change from two to four years?
- Should the number of consecutive terms for both mayor and city council be limited?

Join us for a town hall on October 26th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Bel Aire City Hall.

Residents who can't make it, e-mail [tterhune@belaireks.gov](mailto:tterhune@belaireks.gov) to find out how to share your input.

LIFE'S *better* ON THE EDGE!



# City commits funds for K-254 development

By Taylor Messick

Development for the K-254 corridor moved one step forward on Sept. 7. The city council unanimously voted to approve a local match of about \$11,500 towards a corridor management plan at the request of the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Wilson & Company completed a study of the corridor,

which examined the features of the road and prepared a report for the Kansas Department of Transportation. That study helped create short-term goals for improving the road but will also be the basis for a longer-term master plan that will be administered through KDOT.

City Manager Ty Lasher said the reason the amount was approximate was that Towanda had not yet approved its share of

the match. If Towanda chooses to participate, the shares will be less than \$11,500.

Lasher said the city set aside \$150,000 for a potential study of Rock, Webb and Greenwich. At that point, the city thought it would be necessary to fund a study of those intersections to get approval for potential improvements.

“We’ve since learned that what KDOT needs is a cor-

ridor management plan,” said Lasher. “That will look at the whole corridor and determine if those should be interchanges, overpasses, etc. Once it’s in the plan, the KDOT finance folks will actually get it funded. So, we don’t have to do that study because this plan will do that for us. Instead of spending \$150,000 we will only have to spend \$11,500 so that will free up money for some other

projects.”

A local consult meeting was held with KDOT on Sept. 9 to gauge interest in K-254 corridor improvements. The event was originally supposed to be public at Wichita State University but actually ended up being held via Zoom. Lasher prepared a presentation pushing for improvements on behalf of Bel Aire, but he was unable to give it during the actual meeting.

## BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

**Aug. 10** — Sgt. Davis saw a white Impala bearing an expired Kansas temporary tag from January 2021. After stopping the vehicle, he discovered the driver was operating the vehicle with a suspended Kansas driver’s license. He also had no proof of liability insurance for the vehicle. Also during the stop a strong odor of raw marijuana was detected coming from the vehicle. A probable cause search resulted in the discovery of a marijuana cigarette in the driver’s door map pocket and paraphernalia under the driver’s seat. The man was given a citation for driving with a suspended license, driving with expired vehicle registration, driving with no liability insurance, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

**Aug. 11** — Officer Schell stopped a black Chevrolet Malibu for speeding in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and speeding.

**Aug. 12** — Officer Mast was dispatched to a disturbance involving a 9-year-old foster child and foster parents in the 4300 block of North Mission. The foster parents reported the child was having an outburst and throwing things. Mast spoke with the child and the child calmed down. The social worker for the child was contacted and subsequently a plan was created with the social worker and the foster parents regarding next steps for the child. The child was transported to a predetermined respite location approved by social worker.

**Aug. 13** — Officer Smithwick stopped a white Infinity for speeding in the 5200 block of North Oliver. The vehicle’s temporary tag was expired as of May 2021. The driver was unable to provide proof of insurance for the vehicle. The driver received a citation for speeding, failure to provide proof of liability insurance for the vehicle and driving with an expired tag.

**Aug. 13** — A youth had been reported as a runaway to the Wichita Police Department. The youth arrived at Northeast Magnet High School for school. Contact was made with the girl’s parents. It was discovered the girl had returned home, but the parents neglected to cancel the runaway report.

**Aug. 13** — A woman reported her 2012 Volkswagen Jetta was backed into by a white Dodge Ram pickup in the 5200 block of East Ashton Court. The driver of the pickup left to go pick up another person to help him load the bedroom suit he just purchased at an estate sale near where the collision took place. The driver of the pickup was cited for inattentive driving.

**Aug. 13** — An employee at Subway in the 6200 block of East 37th North closed the restaurant at the regular closing time. A hungry customer became irate upon learning that the restaurant was closed and no sub sandwich was in his near future. The bad-tempered customer pounded on the window and angrily demanded the employee open the restaurant. The employee locked herself in the bathroom and called 911. The customer turned suspect was gone upon police arrival.

**Aug. 14** — Officer Smithwick saw a white Ford F-150 running in the parking lot of Church of the Resurrection. When Smithwick approached the stopped but running vehicle, she smelled an odor of consumed alcohol coming from the driver. The driver failed standard field sobriety testing. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI. The suspect’s name was not available.

**Aug. 14** — Officer Schell was dispatched to a vandalism report in the 4400 block of North Janesville. A man said his mailbox was hit with an object. The mailbox was valued at \$50.

**Aug. 14** — Officers Smithwick and Schell responded to a disturbance call in the 5700 block of North Lycee. During the call, Schell offered to transport one of the involved parties to the Quik-Trip at 37th and Rock Road in an effort to de-escalate the disturbance. When Schell conducted a safety pat-down search of the person he was going to transport, he found Xanax bars in a cigarette carton in the man’s pocket. The man was placed under arrest, and taken to the Sedgwick County Adult Detention Facility and booked for illegal possession of narcotics. The suspect’s name was not available. Aug. 15 — A non-injury accident was reported in the 5500 block of North Rock Road. A gray 2008 Honda Odyssey was northbound on Rock Road between 53rd and K-254. A deer ran across the road in front of the minivan. The deer was struck and the damage was estimated to be over \$1,000. There were no injuries. The deer was not found.

**Aug. 15** — A woman flagged

down Officer Gordon at the Bel Aire Police Department in regards to a crash she was just involved in. The woman said a vehicle traveling south on Rock Road turned east on 53rd, where she was stopped facing west. The woman said the vehicle sideswiped the front driver’s side of her vehicle. She said the driver of the other vehicle stopped to exchange information with her. The other driver was contacted and confirmed she was the driver. The driver was issued citations for driving with a suspended license and for making an improper turn.

**Aug. 15** — Officer Schell was dispatched to a psychiatric call in the 5300 block of North Lycee. A woman called to get help for her husband who was having a panic attack. The man had ingested Delta 8 gummies he got from a liquor store. After ingesting four of the gummies, six times the recommended amount, the man started yelling at a roommate and started to get physical with others. Schell and Officer Langford found the man to be in an agitated state. The man was placed into handcuffs for his safety and the safety of the other people at the residence. The man was eventually transported to Wesley by EMS.

**Aug. 16** — Sgt. Davis stopped a vehicle that failed to stop at a stop sign at 45th and Woodlawn. The driver was cited for the violation and for driving with a suspended license.

**Aug. 16** — A woman reported her black 2007 Chevy Tahoe broke down in the 5000 block of north Greenwich about 2:30 p.m. The rear passenger side tire blew out. She parked the Tahoe off of the road and locked it. When she returned the next day, her vehicle was gone. The vehicle was entered into NCIC.

**Aug. 18** — A man from the 4700 block of North Hedgerow came to the Bel Aire Police Department to drop off a black wallet containing \$34 in cash, U.S. permanent resident card and two business cards. He found the wallet in the middle of the street while walking.

**Aug. 18** — A non-injury accident was reported in the 5300 block of North Webb. A woman was driving south on Webb when a Subaru Forrester turned left at 53rd, running into the side of the woman’s Chevrolet Suburban. The woman driving the Subaru stated she did not see the Suburban before making the turn. Both vehicles were towed due to damage. The driver of the Subaru was cited for failing to yield the right of way. The other driver was cited for driving without a license.

**Aug. 19** — A woman in the 4600 block of North Farmstead reported that about two weeks ago she was checking the cameras located outside of her residence when she witnessed a unknown male in his 20s walk up to her backyard gate and try to open the gate. The gate was locked and the male walked to the other neighbor’s residence and was seen going off camera into their backyard. The male appeared again on camera after a few minutes but did not appear to have anything with him. On another date the woman saw a couple of unknown teenagers attempting to open her car doors. They were unsuccessful because the car doors were locked.

**Aug. 19** — A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported she filed for a protection-from-abuse order on a female who had been harassing her and causing her fear. The female suspect has continued to send the woman harassing text messages and Instagram messages. A check of sheriff’s records shows the PFA has not been served.

**Aug. 19** — A man in the 5100 block of East 49th North reported work tools being taken from his vehicle while he was out of town.

**Aug. 20** — Officer Lopez stopped a black Dodge Charger for speeding in a construction zone in the 4000 block of North Woodlawn. The driver stated he did not have his license with him. When his information was checked he had only a Kansas ID card. The man was cited for speeding and for not having a valid driver’s license. The man had a City of Wichita traffic warrant. Thomas Hagler of Wichita was arrested for the warrant.

**Aug. 20** — Officers were sent to the 4500 block of North Westlake Court to check on a 12-year-old male who was reported to have made concerning suicidal statements. Officer contacted the juvenile and his father. The child was not suicidal and the statement was over a year old.

**Aug. 22** — Officer Smithwick stopped a white GMC Yukon for speeding in the 5000 block of East 37th North. The driver was found to have an expired driver’s license. The man was issued a citation for speed and driving with

an expired driver’s license.

**Aug. 22** — A woman in the 3800 block of North Oliver reported her neighbor continually wanting to ask her a personal questions. When she finally told him he could, the man asked if she had been a porn star about 15 to 17 years ago. The man then made several other inappropriate comments. The woman was advised to get a protection-from-stalking order and contact her apartment property management.

**Aug. 23** — An employee at the Dollar General at 45th and Woodlawn reported a man stole an 8-pack of Budweiser, a 15-pack of Natural Light and two Bud Light bottle 12-packs. After some investigation, officers discovered where the suspect resides in Wichita. The suspect’s father said he would tell his son to turn himself in. The man did not turn himself in and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

**Aug. 23** — A fraud was reported. A man reported to the Bel Aire Police Department that his initial investment of \$900 in Bitcoin, which grew to over \$100,000, was missing out of his account.

**Aug. 20** — Bel Aire Public Works reported that an unknown person damaged sprinkler heads in the center island of Central Park at Rock Road. Damage was estimated at about \$50.

**Aug. 24** — Officer Langford stopped a blue Ford Ranger for failing to signal a turn in the 4300 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was found to have a felony Sedgwick County warrant for aggravated battery. Donald Anthony Moses of Wichita was arrested.

**Aug. 24** — An employee at Enterprise Rental Car in the 6300 block of East 37th North reported coming to work and finding the catalytic converter removed from a Ford Ranger truck. Total loss was estimated at \$1,500.

**Aug. 24** — Officer Gibson assisted a Kechi officer with a driver who refused to comply during a car stop.

**Aug. 24** — While on routine patrol, Officer Gordon drove up to a silver 1999 Dodge Caravan parked on the side of the road at a construction site in the 5500 block of East 53rd North. During the investigation, Gordon arrested Brandon Scott Smith of Wichita on a warrant through the City of Wichita for failure to comply on a domestic violence case.

**Aug. 25** — A woman in the 4400 block of North Janesville reported her ex-boyfriend found her and threatened to punch her window. The woman claimed she was not afraid of physical injury to herself or damage to her vehicle. The suspect was contacted in the area, and interviewed.

**Aug. 25** — Officer Lopez stopped a vehicle for an expired tag (April 2020) in the 5000 block of East 53rd North. The man said his hours at work have been cut up and he has been saving up money to pay for the previous fees. The man was cited and released.

**Aug. 25** — A woman called the Bel Aire Police Department from Catholic Care to report one of her night-shift supervisors was acting strangely. The woman acting suspiciously was doing things she should not be doing. The woman was placed on administrative leave.

**Aug. 26** — A St. Francis Community Services caseworker reported a juvenile causing a disturbance in and outside a vehicle, causing damage to outside of transport vehicle in the 5700 block of East 53rd North. Caseworkers advised they wanted to have the juvenile transported to St. Joseph hospital for a mental health assessment. Officer Mast transported the juvenile, and the caseworkers took care of getting him checked in and treated.

**Aug. 26** — Officer Schell stopped a vehicle in the 4400 block of North Woodlawn for failing to stop at a stop sign. The driver received a citation for having no driver’s license.

**Aug. 27** — Officer Lopez stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4900 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for expired tag and speeding.

**Aug. 27** — Officer Schell stopped a vehicle in the 4600 block of North Oliver for having a license tag that belonged on another vehicle. The driver was cited for the violation and for driving with a suspended license and no insurance.

**Aug. 27** — A man in the 4800 block of East Ashton reported his juvenile son was causing a disturbance in their home. The boy damaged a bedroom door. After a conversation with the boy and his father, both calmed down.

**Aug. 28** — A man reported driving up to a person lying in the street in the 6300 block of East 44th. The man called 911 because he was concerned about the welfare of the person. Sedgwick County Fire Department Station 37 and EMS Medic

Unit 25 were dispatched and assessed the person. The subject was found to be intoxicated. It is believed that he walked out to check his mailbox and fell, which caused his mailbox to be damaged. The subject was unable to stand under his own power so he was transported to Wesley Medical Center for treatment of alcohol poisoning and two large bumps on his head.

**Aug. 29** — Officer Trumbull stopped a vehicle with an expired tag in the 8700 block of East Chris. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and expired tag.

**Aug. 29** — A man reported he was driving north on Oliver and his vehicle struck two cut-outs in the road from road repairs, damaging his 2017 Cadillac CTS. The damage to the vehicle does not appear to be consistent with how the collision was reported. Photographs and statements were submitted.

**Aug. 29** — An unknown person found a Dodge Ram key fob while walking in Eagle Lake Park in the 4200 block of North Westlake. The key fob was submitted as found property.

**Aug. 30** — A foster father from the 4300 block of North Rushwood called 911 to report that his 15-year-old foster child intentionally broke a guitar that belonged to him during an argument. The child was upset because his foster parents took away his television privileges. The foster parents were no longer willing to foster the child at their home and wanted him removed. The foster agency, Cornerstone, based out of Kansas City, refused to come pick up the foster child or find alternate placement for him. The foster child was transported to the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center.

**Aug. 30** — A two-vehicle wreck was reported at Oliver and Willow Point. A gray 2014 Toyota Rav 4 rear-ended a green 2012 Mini Cooper. The driver of the Toyota was cited for inattentive driving. No injuries were reported.

**Aug. 31** — A two-vehicle wreck was reported in the 7300 block of East 45th North. One driver reported the other driver did not make sure the road was clear before making a left turn in front of his vehicle. The second vehicle drove into the ditch. A citation was issued to the second driver for failing to yield the right-of-way.

**Aug. 31** — A man reported he was walking at Eagle Lake Park and he walked past a woman and her dog. The dog was a German Shepherd or Husky mix. The man said the dog jumped up and bit him in the lower right of his back. The information given by the dog owner appears to be invalid.

**Sept. 1** — Officer Langford responded to assist Park City Police Department with an active disturbance in the 8800 block of North Hidden Lane. Park City police determined a male suspect committed criminal damage to property and domestic violence battery. Park City police arrested the suspect.

**Sept. 1** — A man called the Bel Aire Police Department to report he received an e-mail around on Sept. 1 purporting to be from “Lifelock.” The e-mail claimed the man needed to pay \$375 for a year-long subscription. The man called the number on the e-mail and gave them his Social Security number as well as his bank information. The man was informed he needed to go to Target and buy a \$4,000 gift card. The man then began to think he was involved in a scam and hung up. The man said he realized he did not have “Lifelock.” The man was informed to contact his bank and to let them know what had happened so they could set him up with a new account. There was no loss at this time and no known suspects.

**Sept. 1** — A man and woman reported finding the front door of their residence unlocked and opened when they returned home in the 7400 block of East Summerside Place. They reviewed their home video surveillance and observed an unknown newer model red Camaro parked in their driveway. An unknown Hispanic male and female exited the Camaro and walked into the entryway of their residence. The video does not show the unknown vehicle or individuals leave the residence. However, they are not on camera after four minutes.

**Sept. 3** — A business owner in the 4700 block of North Oliver reported a recently fired employee showed up at his business with his girlfriend and child. The ex-employee began yelling at him and his staff, calling them names and using vulgar language. The business owner told the man and woman they had to leave and were not allowed back on the property. They left.

**Sept. 3** — A woman in the

4100 block of North Clarendon reported seeing a man with a bald head in the backyard of her house. She thought it looked like her ex-boyfriend. The woman did not get a good look at the man. The man was gone when officers arrived. The woman was told how she could get a protective order if she felt like it would benefit her.

**Sept. 4** — A man in the 4900 block of North Tierra Lakes Parkway had suicidal ideas and wanted to harm himself. He intentionally hit himself in the right eye and made statements about wanting to harm himself. He was transported to St. Joseph Hospital by EMS for a psychiatric evaluation.

**Sept. 5** — Officer Langford stopped a gray Ford Expedition for speeding in the 4200 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

**Sept. 5** — Officer Langford stopped a red Dodge Dakota for failure to maintain a single lane of travel in the 4000 block of North Woodlawn. He contacted the driver who was found to be operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. While securing the vehicle, Langford smelled burned marijuana. The vehicle was searched and marijuana was located. A handgun was also located. The gun was taken for safekeeping. Jose Ignacio Soliz of Wichita was arrested on a charge of DUI.

**Sept. 5** — Officer Gibson was dispatched to a welfare check in the 4400 block of North Oliver. The caller was concerned about a white 2008 Acura TL parked in the northbound lane with the passenger side tire snapped off. Upon further investigation, the Acura, which was driven by an unknown person, struck a trailer with a porta-potty on top parked on the side of the road causing, the trailer to be destroyed. The trailer belongs to AAA Portable Services and a phone message was left. The vehicle was left in the middle of the lane, locked with nobody around. The keys were gone. The Wichita Police Department was sent to two addresses but no owner was located. The registered owner’s phone was called but no contact was made. Kidd’s Towing towed the vehicle and a hold was placed on it until a driver could be identified. Later, the owner called the Wichita Police Department to report the car stolen. The man who made the report was contacted and said he would be to Bel Aire to fill out a witness statement and make a report. He never showed up and did not try to recontact the Bel Aire Police Department. As of Sept. 14, the man’s car was still at the wrecker lot.

**Sept. 5** — A man reported that a patient at Bel Aire Recovery Center in the 4900 block of North Tierra Lakes Parkway kicked the chair that he was sitting in and slapped him in the face when he stood up. The suspect said that she slapped him because she was afraid that the victim was going to hit her so she hit him in self-defense. Witnesses gave conflicting statements and the incident wasn’t recorded on video to review.

**Sept. 5** — Officer Trumbull stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5000 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license, no driver’s license in possession, driving on an expired driver’s license and speeding.

**Sept. 6** — Officer Langford stopped a black Chevy Avalanche for operating with no tail lights. The driver was cited for operating a motor vehicle while having never been licensed and no proof of liability insurance.

**Sept. 6** — A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported a person sent her a message on Facebook asking her to drop the charges for court. The woman claimed that there is an active protection-from-abuse order in force, but sheriff’s records could not find the order.

**Sept. 6** — A caller reported witnessing a man beat a female at Rock Road near 53rd Street. Officers made contact with both parties, who had already separated at that point. The officers were told the disturbance was only verbal in nature and was not physical. Neither person had any signs of physical injury.

**Sept. 6** — Officer Gordon took the report of a license plate being removed from a vehicle in the 5700 block of North Lycee. The license plate was entered into NCIC.

**Sept. 7** — Officer Langford went to assist the Wichita Police Department on an officer-in-trouble call. Wichita police requested the assistance from the Bel Aire unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to help with a search for the suspect. The suspect was armed with a rifle. Langford deployed the UAV and conducted a search for the suspect with the thermal camera. He was able to

locate the suspect and directed officers to the suspect’s location. The suspect was apprehended by Wichita police without further incident or violence.

**Sept. 8** — A man came to the Bel Aire Police Department to report an unknown person had gone through his Ram 1500 truck in the 5300 block of North Rock Springs. The man said he noticed his and his wife’s entire golf clubs were missing. Both sets of golf clubs were in the bed of the truck uncovered. The unknown person also went through the inside of the truck. A metal cardholder was missing. No suspects were identified.

**Sept. 8** — A woman called the Bel Aire Police Department to report an unknown white male pulled his vehicle into her driveway, got out of the car and took a package off of her front porch in the 6100 block of East 41st Court North. The male got back into his vehicle and drove away. The woman said the package was a box of K-Cup coffee from Sam’s Club. Loss estimated at \$20.

**Sept. 8** — A woman reported driving into the parking lot of the Catholic Care assisted-living complex in the 6500 block of East 45th North and striking another vehicle while trying to park. Damage was less than \$1,000.

**Sept. 8** — A foster parent in the 5700 block of East Memphis reported her juvenile foster son did not come home from school on the bus as normal. After checking several locations for the boy, a runaway report was made.

**Sept. 8** — A business owner in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest reported that an unknown person cut off the catalytic converter of a Toyota Tundra company vehicle. Cost to replace catalytic converter was \$2,000.

**Sept. 11** — Officer Schell saw two vehicles parked in the parking lot of Sunrise Christian Academy in the 5500 block of East 45th North. Contact was made with the driver of a white Ford F-150. The driver claimed the two vehicles were waiting for their kids to return from a football game. Schell requested his driver’s license and the man said he was not going to provide it. While attempting to reason with him, he requested to speak to a supervisor. Sgt. Davis spoke to the man, who eventually provided his driver’s license.

**Sept. 11** — Officer Gordon stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5400 block of North Webb. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

**Sept. 11** — Officer Gordon was dispatched to a motor vehicle crash involving a vehicle striking the Dollar General building at 45th and Woodlawn. Witnesses reported a white Ford Explorer with black trim and a burned out left tail light struck the east wall of the Dollar General. Witnesses described the driver as a white female in her 20s who wore a white shirt and tight jeans and had long, blonde hair. The driver left the scene without reporting the crash and was last seen northbound on Woodlawn from 45th Street. No one inside of the building was injured.

**Sept. 12** — While on routine patrol, Officer Gordon saw a silver Hyundai Sonata in a parking lot at Hillcrest and Crestmark with its parking lights on. He checked on the occupants and found two subjects inside of the car. While interviewing them about what they were doing there, he smelled the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. He conducted a search of the vehicle and found minor drug paraphernalia. The paraphernalia was seized and put into evidence.

**Sept. 13** — Officer Langford stopped a white Toyota Corolla for speeding in the 4300 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

**Sept. 13** — Officer Trumbull stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4000 block of North Woodlawn. The vehicle also had no tail lights. Trumbull smelled a strong odor of alcohol coming from the driver, who told Trumbull he was coming from a wedding. The man admitted to consuming several alcoholic beverages. The man had a hard time following instructions and refused to do the standard field sobriety testing. During a search of the vehicle, marijuana was found. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI. The suspect’s name was not available.

**Sept. 13** — Officer Schell stopped a vehicle at Crestmark and Woodlawn for not having tail lamps on a trailer. The driver was found to have a City of Wichita warrant for domestic Battery. Dylan Shayne Jave was arrested on the warrant and cited for the traffic charges.



# ELECTION 2021: USD 259 CANDIDATE Q&A

## USD 259 District 1

### Ben Blankley

**Age:** 38  
**Occupation:** Aerospace engineer, Spirit Aerosystems, 14 years  
**Family:** Wife Liz Anderson, son Antonio Blankley, 6.

**Political experience, community involvement and professional and educational experience that would help you as a board member:** USD 259 District 1 Board of Education member 2017 to the present, SPEEA IFPTE Local 2001 Council representative (union steward) 2015 to the present, Wichita Shakespeare Company board member 2010 to the present, Wichita Community Theatre volunteer 2007 to 2015 and board president 2012 to 2015.

1. I am running for the USD 259 board of education because volunteerism is a core tenet of my adult life. I believe in the transformative power of public education on a child's life. I am invested in this community wholeheartedly. Public education is my family business.

2. I am a career-level engineer in the local aviation industry and the parent of a young USD 259 student. I have shown that I have a deep, lengthy connection to our community and a history of putting others' needs first in order to improve our shared state of being. I strive for consensus and collaboration first, which is essential in competent local governance.

### Diane Albert

(Did not respond)

## USD 259 District 2

### Julie Hedrick

**Age:** 65  
**Occupation:** Architect, retired facilities division director USD 259.  
**Family:** Husband Fr. Terry Hedrick, children

Jaimee Gwost, 42, (husband, Phil), Tera Hedrick, 40, Evie Gwost, 13, Carly Gwost, 10.

**Political experience, community involvement and professional and educational experience that would help you as a board member:** Served on USD 259 school board from 2018 to the present, USD 259 employee in the facilities division from 1987 to 2015. I have served in many ways in churches alongside my pastor husband. I have served on the City of Wichita Design Board and Access Advisory Board. Current board member of Grace Med and Legacy Ministries, LLC. Bachelor of architecture from KSU and a master's of business administration from WSU.

1. I believe school district decisions should be made based on what is best for kids, so I serve for kids and not for a political or personal agenda. We have a great school district and I want to do my part to keep it on the right track, serving our kids, families and teachers and focusing on student achievement. I believe in public education, and I advocate for teachers and staff. I have unique experiences and abilities due to my 28.5 years of experience working in operations and in all the buildings in the district.

2. I am unique in that I am not only a product of WPS (I attended McCollum, Hadley and West) along with my husband, daughters and granddaughters, but I also served my entire professional career at WPS, so I have a deep commitment to and an intimate knowledge of the district, including budgets, operations, people, and the inner-workings of the district. I am a lifelong Wichita resident with deep commitments to and ties to the community, which I have served in many ways my entire life. I am a common-sense listener and I collaborate in making decisions.

### Brent T. Davis

(Did not respond)

### Justin Bjork

(Did not respond)

## The questions

1. Why are you running for office?
2. What knowledge or skills do you have that would uniquely qualify you to serve on the school board?

## USD 259 District 5

### Mia Turner

(Did not respond)

### Kathy Bond

**Age:** 63  
**Occupation:** Retired business owner  
**Family:** Husband Gary, children Alicia, 39, Michael, 27, and Christopher, 24.

**Political experience, community involvement and professional and educational experience that would help you as a board member:** I have lived in Wichita since 1988. I am married to Gary for 29 years. Together we have three adult children, two sons and one daughter. Our daughter is an elementary education teacher in Andover and our sons are in the Air Force, one active duty and the other a veteran with an Honorable Discharge. All three children and my husband went to WPS from K-12. I was educated at Lutheran High School North in St. Louis, MO and earned my BA in Strategic Communications cum laude from Wichita State University. I am a retired business owner, having owned my own business for 15 years. Before owning my business, I was a flight attendant with Eastern Airlines. In our community, I am a member of the DAR (Daughter of the American Revolution) local Chapter, I have served on the Sedgwick County Mental Health Advisory Board, I am involved with the Metropolitan Ballet of Wichita, and serve our airmen as the 22nd ARW Honorary Commander, McConnell Air Force Base. For the past three years, I have been a substitute teacher for schools in the USD 259 district. With this experience

came a passion for public education. As we know, education shapes society, and plays a very crucial role in securing economic and social progress and improving income distribution in each community.

1. To strengthen the voice of the parents, giving them control over their children, to increase a greater promotion of student success, to protect the values of educational principles by preventing critical race theory from entering our schools, to advocate for our educators, treating them as the professionals they are.

2. I have been a substitute teacher in USD 259 for three years, therefore I have a front line position to see, hear and listen to administration, staff and educators. I was active in the WPS when my children were attending school as a member of the PTA and homeroom parent for many years. I have credibility in the community. I am passionate about seeing students succeed. Because I am retired, I have the time to invest in our schools, our educators, administration and staff while building relationships with parents and students.

## USD 259 District 6

### Hazel Stabler

**Age:** 64  
**Occupation:** Clothing designer  
**Family:** Husband Hollis; children Derek, Damon, Taysha, Taywanee and Chusse-Lonna; grandchildren Easton, Keechi, Tay-Wisty, Widdish.  
**Political experience, community involvement and professional and educational experience that would help you as a board member:** I am an international clothing designer and have won numerous accolades and

recognition in the fashion industry. The most recent includes being the first Kansan and the first Native American to show a collection at New York Fashion Week in 2019. I have been invited to Paris and Milan Fashion Week 2022. For more than 35 years I have traveled cross country sharing my Native American culture through fashion. I have worked with tribal museums, documenting and reproducing original garments for preservation. Worked as para in USD 259 (three years). Currently on the Maize High Fashion, Apparel and Interior Design Pathway Advisory Committee (two years). Currently on the Executive Steering Committee for Botanica Pistils. Mission is to support the education and cultural programs and events at Botanica Gardens. Currently first vice president, Republican Women United. Currently secretary, Republican National Hispanic Assembly, Sedgwick County. Co-founder of ICT Native Gala, raising funds to benefit Wichita Native youth cultural education, and St. Joseph Apache Mission Food Bank, and partnership with ICT SOS for pilot education program for middle and high school students with focus on Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) and human trafficking. Member and volunteer for Designing Women – Mark Arts. Dwight D. Eisenhower Excellence in Public Service – Class of 2019. Past: Mid-America All Indian Center – Museum Committee, Wichita Warrior Society – secretary.

1. I want to be a voice for students, parents and teachers. We need to evaluate and find solutions for improved student outcomes. (Why are students graduating under grade level?) I would like to connect families with their children's education. I will be proactive in connecting with teachers to learn about education concerns in USD 259.

6. As a community we have many different perspectives, opinions and personalities. I have lifelong experience of working with many different groups,

clubs and community projects. I have been very successful in my endeavors. I know it is not possible to agree on every issue. We must be respectful to each other and communicate often. We must have a common goal for the betterment of the people we are elected to represent. I will stand up for students and their rights to receive a good education. I want to hear from them, their families and teachers to better understand how they see our schools could be improved. I understand USD 259 used to be an innovative educational leader in our region and I'd like to push our school board to take the risks to lead once again.

### Holly Terrill

(Did not respond)

### Ron Rosales

**Age:** 56  
**Occupation:** Teacher  
**Family:** Wife Stephanie, children Naomi and Samuel  
**Political experience, community involvement and professional and educational experience that would help you as a board member:** I am a first-term BOE member, VFW member, a volunteer for Safe Streets of Wichita, a retired Navy veteran and a current teacher at USD 261 Haysville.

1. I am running for the BOE again to maintain a balanced approach to our policy making and to represent the thousands of students, parents and teachers in USD 259.

2. I am currently a 15-year teacher, all in Title I schools. My experience in the schools has added a wealth of knowledge to help make informed and sometimes quick decisions. Also, my time in the Navy prepared me for being in leadership roles and to navigate difficult situations. Between these two occupations, I have learned how important it is to listen, follow directions and to assess situations with good input from those around me, as well as those who support me.

# CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Christ Lutheran-ELCA

Christ Lutheran Church is located at 53rd North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School.

Worship services this summer are 9 a.m. (contemporary) and 10:30 a.m. (traditional) on Sundays.

For more information about the church, check our website at [www.christ-lutheran.org](http://www.christ-lutheran.org) or our Facebook page [CLCwichita](https://www.facebook.com/CLCwichita) or call 316-744-1242.

Pastor Chad Langdon is the minister.

### Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord's day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday masses are at 8 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is [www.resurrectionwichita.com](http://www.resurrectionwichita.com), and the telephone number is 744-2776.

The Rev. Michael J. Schemm is the pastor.

### Community Bible

### Chapel

Community Bible Chapel is located at the corner of 45th North and Auburn.

If you have any questions about our church, please call Amy Smith at 323-2819.

### Cornerstone Christian

Cornerstone Christian Church is at 5531 E. 37th North, Wichita KS 67220-2037. The phone number is 686-0208.

Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. A nursery is provided.

Wednesday study groups at 6:30 p.m. include adult studies, youth and Awana.

Pastor is Jason Whyte.

### Gospel Assembly

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, Sunday services are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Prayer service is at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Praise and worship is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Youth activities are on the first Saturday evening of each month.

Phone number is 744-1502. The Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

### Greenwich United Methodist

Greenwich UMC at 5500 N. Greenwich Road is one mile south of K-254 and five miles north of 21st

North.

Sunday worship is at 9 a.m. with Life Studies for all ages from 10 to 10:30.

Pastor Paula Scott is available at the church each Wednesday for prayer and fellowship.

United Methodist Women meet at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month and host a church brunch quarterly.

Special events are announced on the church sign, Facebook and by mailings. Please call to be added to our mailing list or email [shagemeister@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shagemeister@sbcglobal.net).

Greenwich UMC missions support large local charities like Open Door, Grace Med or Youthville, as well as small charities like Flint Hills Therapeutic Riding Center and Wichita Children's Home, to name a few.

Like us on Facebook at Wichita Greenwich United Methodist Church. Call us at 744-0203.

### Kechi United Methodist

Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. Sunday worship is at 9:03 a.m. (contemporary) and 11 (traditional), with Sunday school at 10.

Bingo is at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of each

month.

Men's Bible study is at 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

Our pastor is Michelle Gowin. Find us online at [www.KechiUMC.org](http://www.KechiUMC.org) and "Like" us on Facebook.

The church phone number is 744-1221.

### LifePoint

A fellowship of the Assemblies of God, LifePoint is located at 400 S. Abilene in Valley Center.

Sunday school classes meet at 9 a.m., with the regular service and Kids Church at 10:30. There are no regular Sunday night services.

For special activities, check online at [www.lpcag.org](http://www.lpcag.org).

On Wednesdays, LifePoint Kids and LifePoint Students services meet from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Adult small groups and prayer are also available.

Lead pastor is Steve Rains. Youth pastor is Levi Massey. Children's pastor is Nathaniel Thurman.

Call the church at 755-2331.

### Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Located at 6770 E. 34th North in northeast Wichita. You can reach us at 683-5538 or via email at post-

master@risensavior.net.

Sunday morning services in our Worship Center are at 8 and 10:30, with a nursery and Children's Church during the 10:30 service. We provide adult Bible classes and children's Sunday school beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Each month we provide options to participate in a variety of Bible studies, fellowship and service opportunities for all ages. Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter — search RisenSaviorICT! Find out everything Risen Savior has to offer on our website [www.risensavior.net](http://www.risensavior.net).

Senior pastor is Tom Harmon. Assistant pastor is Nick Cordt.

master@risensavior.net.

Sunday morning services in our Worship Center are at 8 and 10:30, with a nursery and Children's Church during the 10:30 service. We provide adult Bible classes and children's Sunday school beginning at 9:15 a.m.

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Senior pastor is Tom Harmon. Assistant pastor is Nick Cordt.

### Saint Michael Western Orthodox Christian

Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is at 2710 E. 61st North, Park City.

It is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Worship with us Sunday Adult Class at 9 a.m., morning prayer at 9:45 a.m. and Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m., and Wednesday Holy Eucharist at 6 p.m.

Men's Bible study group meets at 7 p.m. on the first

and third Monday.

Women's Bible study group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Friday.

Wednesday service is at 6 p.m.

Saturday Vespers are at 4:30 p.m.

The Very Rev. Dr. John Flora is archpriest and pastor. The Rev. Deacon Basil Anderson is assistant. Frank Tritschler is head chanter. Readers are James Finneran and Moses Rothenberger. Mrs. Sally Buxon is organist.

For more information call 734-6248 or go online [www.saintmichaelorthodoxchurch.com](http://www.saintmichaelorthodoxchurch.com). Email inquiries to [jfflora@icloud.com](mailto:jfflora@icloud.com).

### Wichita Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist

Located at 4558 N. Hydraulic, Wichita.

Birger Drager is pastor. Sabbath school at 9:30 a.m. with worship service at 11.

For more information, go online at [www.god-scloset.com](http://www.god-scloset.com) or on Facebook (Gods Closet - Wichita).

For God's Closet, call 778-0474.

*Send your church's upcoming events and service times to [legals@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:legals@arkvalleynews.com) or call 755-0821.*

# Police

## Continued from Page 5

**Sept. 13 —** Lt. Foxx and Officer Gibson were dispatched to a welfare check in the 5700 block of East Odessa. Upon arrival and knocking on the door, a man came out through the attached garage holding a machete. When challenged by the officers, he put the machete down. The man was arrested on a Wichita warrant. The machete was submitted to

evidence. The suspect's name was not available.

**Sept. 13 —** A two-vehicle wreck was reported at 37th and Woodlawn. A red 2016 Hyundai Sonata was northbound on Woodlawn at 37th Street. A dark gray 2020 Ram 1500 pickup was southbound in the center lane of Woodlawn, waiting for the light to turn green. The red Hyundai Sonata ran a red light for the northbound to westbound turn lane, crossed over 37th street, and crashed into the Ram 1500 head-on. EMS Medic 25 took the

driver of the red car to Wesley Medical Center for treatment. She was not wearing a seat belt. The driver of the Ram 1500 had no injuries. Both vehicles were towed away due to damage.

**Sept. 13 —** Officers were sent to check a suspicious character in the 4500 block of North Auburn. Officers found a tan Ford Ranger occupied by a homeless woman who was on her way to Oklahoma to visit a friend. Her welfare was checked and she was taken by EMS to Wesley Medical Center on Woodlawn for a medi-

cal and mental evaluation.

**Sept. 13 —** A man in the 6400 block of East Rodeo reported that a person by the name of Michael threatened to "put hands on" his mother. The reporting party did not know many more details about what was meant by that statement or why Michael would want to do such a thing.

**Sept. 14 —** A woman in the 5500 block of North Lycee reported that her son's cell phone was removed from his backpack while at school. It was recovered by school staff and the situation was

handled internally at the school.

**Sept. 13 —** A woman reported to the Bel Aire Police Department that she found the front driver's side tire slashed on her 2005 Chevrolet Impala. The woman also wanted to report the expired sticker on her license plate was now gone.

**Sept. 14 —** A man in the 4800 block of East Ashton reported that his wife, from whom he is separated, hit him with her van. He did not believe it was done intentionally. After speaking with both parties, it was

found that the man blocked his wife's van in the driveway so she would be unable to leave. The man then stood too close to her van as his wife was telling him she wanted to leave. He was attempting to keep her from leaving. The woman backed up in an effort to leave and because he wouldn't move, she accidentally touched his left leg with the front driver's side tire. The man suffered no injury. Officer Gordon told the wife how to obtain a protection-from-abuse order from the county.



# ELECTION 2021: BEL AIRE CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR CANDIDATE Q&A

## City council (At-large; vote for three)

### Patty Beamer

(See mayor entry)

### Matthieu R. Bryant

(Did not respond to survey)

### Greg Davied

**Age:** 59  
**Occupation:** Aircraft structures engineer



**Davied**

**Political experience and community involvement:** During my first walk to distrib-

ute campaign literature a gentleman asked how long I'd been a politician. With a quick look at my watch, I replied, "About 15 minutes." Actually I have helped with other people's campaigns and have held numerous leadership positions at church, but this is my first run for a political office.

1. The current council has made great progress in reducing the city debt. They've put savings to use in improving our streets and keeping our city safe. Councilman Elshoff was part of that improvement, but is unfortunately unable to serve again. I have the same background, as an aircraft structural engineer, with similar views on limited government and would be an appropriate replacement. My wife and I have been blessed to reside here over 23 years, raising our five children in this incredible community. It's my opportunity to give back and would be honored to serve.

2. It's been a pleasure walking the streets during this campaign discussing issues with fellow residents. The main items of concern seem to be water rates and condition of streets. The latest budget has reduced debt payments, due to restructuring and land sales, and puts an additional \$1 million towards streets. This needs to continue. Those who know me understand that I'm a fiscal conservative. This was my approach as an engineering manager and many years serving on the church finance committee. If elected, I'll bring those same skills to bear to scrutinize every dollar of taxpayer money spent.

3. The land sales have been the key. We needed to get the city out of the real estate business, and redeploy money spent on debt financing towards infrastructure. Again, we need to continue to do everything possible to reduce water costs, to ensure we have a viable, low-cost supply. We have many retired residents on fixed incomes who can't take price increases. Reducing taxes, while continuing to staff an excellent police force to keep our city safe, is the formula to attract people to Bel Aire.

4. The intersections at K-254 are a constant safety concern. Addressing this should remain a focus. It is great to see business coming back at 45th and Woodlawn. The many new housing developments are a sign that we're doing things right to become a safe bedroom community that is an attractive place for both young families and retirees to call home. With that consumer base and revamped infrastructure, commercial growth will come to Bel Aire. We need to keep the leadership in place that has insti-

tuted lean government and reduced debt to continue this progress.

### Ashley Markley

**Age:** 36  
**Occupation:** Architect  
**Political experience and community involvement:** Member of the Bel Aire Utility Advisory Committee; Junior Achievement; numerous career and STEM outreach events for kids elementary through high school.



**Markley**

1. Over 75 percent of the decisions the council makes are construction related, and no one currently on the council has a background in that industry. I am an architect by trade so I can fill that gap by contributing my professional knowledge. There are questions that need to be asked that aren't being asked. I will ask those questions and help use our tax dollars more efficiently. I'm currently serving on the Utilities Advisory Committee for the city, and I know I can be a great advocate for our community on the council.

2. Enhance the street and capital improvement reserve funds to facilitate meaningful long-term improvements and reduce reliance on temporary fixes. There's \$27,000 of non-police-related expenditures for training and conferences. I think that item deserves a second look to determine how much of that is really necessary. We need more sidewalks along main streets. I see people being forced into the ditch or onto the street walking to and from Dollar General almost daily. We need to provide basic, safe walkability by adding them. Without some of these infrastructure improvements, we are at risk of losing potential residents to other suburbs.

3. Streets and infrastructure such as water, sewage and stormwater. The streets are enduring more abuse with the added traffic, more hard surfaces like houses and pavement mean more stormwater runoff, and more toilets mean more sewage and water demand.

4. Short term: adjacent to Woodlawn and 45th; long term: along K-254 where that traffic can pull in customers from outside Bel Aire and the adjacent street is already built for heavier traffic.

### Justin Smith

**Age:** 32  
**Occupation:** IT leader – Solutions Architecture



**Smith**

**Disruptive Technologies**  
**Political experience and community involvement:** Bel Aire City Council 2017 to 2021, Chisholm Creek Utility Authority 2020 to 2021.

1. This office is an opportunity to serve and have impact for ourselves and our children. Four years ago I committed to approach issues in a logical, respectful and economical way. Over the past four years I have delivered on that commitment. Land has been sold, relieving some of the debt pressure on our city. Over the next four years, the city needs to focus these funds on long-overdue

## The questions

1. Why are you running for office?
2. What is one area of the city's annual budget you would enhance? What is one area that could be cut? Describe the city's biggest need.
3. Bel Aire is experiencing population growth as a result of successful land sales. What does the governing body need to focus on in order to keep up with that growth?
4. Bel Aire is working with the Kansas Department of Transportation to rebuild Woodlawn and it is possible that K-254 could be next. Where do you think the city should focus on commercial growth, both short term and long term?

street and infrastructure projects. As our city's financial position continues to improve, balancing additional spending on projects with tax rate reduction needs to be a key focus.

2. The biggest opportunity for budget enhancement is streets. Many of the arterial streets require significant overhaul. I have advocated for overall budget reductions and reallocations (to streets), including the ones that led to the 2022 mill levy decrease. The city is currently operating in a very efficient model with staff regularly optimizing to operate effectively while limiting cost increases. Going forward, I believe it's important to not lose this value-focused approach, even as the city's financial position improves, so that the city can continue to allocate a higher percentage of the budget to streets and infrastructure.

3. As population grows, the temptation is to grow government. Over time, growth will be required. However, pursuing other alternatives first may create more value for taxpayers. One example of this is the pay scale changes recently implemented for the police department. During my time on council, I have witnessed perpetually vacant positions in that department. Implementing competitive wages for existing roles has allowed those positions to be filled. This allows Bel Aire to operate very effectively without adding positions. In other areas, it will be important to evaluate technology and automation as an alternative to additional staff.

4. Attracting commercial development is very important for the long-term sustainability of our city. The city has made a lot of progress in exiting the real estate and development business and I want to continue that trend. I think it is important to focus on creating a business-friendly environment so that individual business owners can evaluate what locations make the most sense for their business. Over that past four years we revised city codes to make them more friendly to small businesses and are starting mill-levy reduction in 2022, which I believe will make Bel Aire increasingly attractive for commercial development.

### John Welch

**Age:** 63  
**Occupation:** Retired  
**Political experience and community involvement:** Bel Aire City



**Welch**

Council member since March 2020; member of Church of the Resurrection; member of Knights of Columbus, serving in several different officer positions since November of 2007.

1. During my tenure on the council, we have had over \$4 million in land sales, reduced debt payments by \$400,000 per year and increased capital improvement spending on

roads from almost nothing to \$1 million per year. At the same time, we were able to reduce the mill levy. I want to make sure that we continue to follow this path of reducing government where we can, while providing the best service possible to the residents of our city.

2. I would like to see a continued increase in the amount of money we can put toward fixing our streets. This is something that was left undone for too long. I believe the city is running a very tight budget and that cuts are not currently necessary. Our city's biggest need is to continue to maintain and improve our infrastructure.

3. To support growth, we need to make sure that the city has enough staff to be responsive to the needs of developers. This includes engineers to design and oversee water, sewer and road construction, as well as building inspectors and support staff to help developers move through the regulatory steps to build quality homes and businesses in the most efficient manner. This may require outsourcing some of the work or hiring extra staff.

4. Bel Aire should continue working to bring commercial businesses to the Sunflower Commerce Park. We should continue to work with KDOT and other regional governments to build an interchange at Webb and K-254 that can support commercial traffic. Other businesses will grow as the population grows. Bel Aire's job will be to make sure we provide the proper environment for this to happen.

## Mayor

### Patty Beamer

**Age:** 60  
**Occupation:** Retired Naval officer and nurse educator

**Political experience and community involvement:**



**Beamer**

Ran for state legislature in 2016.  
1. I am running for office because I believe it is my civic duty as a citizen of Bel Aire to contribute to the goals and future of Bel Aire. I am running for councilwoman and mayor because I was asked to run for both. If elected to both, I would choose mayor, but I am

open to either position and would love the support of the people of Bel Aire.

2. As I review the city's budget for the last three years and what needs to be cut or enhanced, I cannot say at this time. I would need time to discuss the current vision and goals of Bel Aire with the city manager and chief financial officer and then poll the people of Bel Aire if they concurred with the current plan or would prefer to go a different way. One item of infrastructure I would like to see is sidewalks poured on Woodlawn from Isely Magnet School south to 37th and on 45th Street from Rock Road to Oliver. Sidewalks on these streets would allow parents and students to walk safely from Isely and Sunrise Christian Academy home or to the Dillons.

3. While Bel Aire is experiencing population growth via land sales, I would like to ensure that land is being sold for break-even or increased revenue. Financial oversight is needed for checks and balances in land sales. I would also like to see affordable housing for young couples who may be interested in purchasing a first home.

4. Short-term and long-term commercial growth should only be considered after roads are created to handle the amount of traffic commercial growth would generate. It would be nice to have commercial land for small businesses in Bel Aire once the roads are in place.

### Jim Benage

**Age:** 67  
**Occupation:** Self-employed business consultant/auditor

**Political experience and community involvement:** Bel Aire mayor



**Benage**

December 2019 to the present, member of the city council from January 2018 to December 2019, Precinct BA03 Republican Party committeeman since August 2018, longtime member of Church of the Resurrection serving in various roles, coordinate winter meals for homeless people for Interfaith Ministries (now HumanKind Ministries), volunteer for Kansas State Rep. Chuck Weber's 2016 campaign, all of U.S. Congressman Ron Estes' campaigns, and multiple campaigns in 2020.

1. In 2019, we lacked proper focus for the city. I campaigned on the platform to refocus Bel Aire. We did that. By the grace of God, we achieved unbelievable results. We sold over \$4 million in land; we refinanced our debt saving almost \$400,000 per year in debt service cost. We are spending over \$1 million this year on road improvements. We changed some burdensome regulations. We managed through the COVID pandemic with only one known cluster in Bel Aire. The city is on solid ground to continue to improve infrastructure for growth. I'm running to keep focus on progress.

2. Our biggest need is to fix our roads. We have to maintain roads that are in good shape so that they do not add to the list of ones in poor shape. A balancing act. We will continue to focus on putting more money into roads until all are in good shape. Bel Aire runs a very efficient staff. Citizens get great value for their tax dollars with Bel Aire employees. We can continue to cut the mill levy each year. We did that for 2022. I do not remember Bel Aire ever doing that. If so, it was many years ago.

3. This is a great problem to have. We have 11 residential developments in some phase; from concept and design to actual building of housing. This really taxes our engineering and building inspection staff. We have off loaded some engineering services to help relieve the pressure and get more things done. Growth requires several services be maintained for our citizens. We were losing good people. With WSU's help, we reviewed pay scales and made appropriate, market based, adjustments. Keeping good people is key to providing good service. Our growth is enhanced by the quality of our staff.

4. Commercial and retail are two different businesses. Bel Aire needs both. We have some in the 37th and Woodlawn area and in the Sunflower Commerce Park (SCP). But SCP needs retail support. Primary focus for retail is along Woodlawn, Rock and Webb Road. These projects must be developer driven. Not city driven. We cannot get back into the city being in the development business. That did not go well in Central Park. The city is no longer in the residential development business and residential development has exploded. That's a win-win. We are well positioned for commercial and retail growth.

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## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### BEL AIRE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

## October 21st at 7 p.m. Bel Aire City Hall

Candidates running for Bel Aire City Council positions and the position of Mayor will be there. Each candidate will have an opportunity to speak and answer questions. Everyone welcome!

Presented by:

**BEL AIRE**  
Area Chamber of Commerce



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### Schedule

- ★ THURSDAY – 8 a.m., Oct. 21: Parade, 8:30 a.m. Set up, 12 p.m. Open to the public
- ★ FRIDAY – 10 a.m., Oct. 22: Opening ceremony, flyover, speaker Sen. Jerry Moran
- ★ SATURDAY – 10 a.m., Oct. 23: POW & MIA ceremony, Gold Star Mothers
- ★ MONDAY – 12 p.m., Oct. 25: Closing ceremony

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